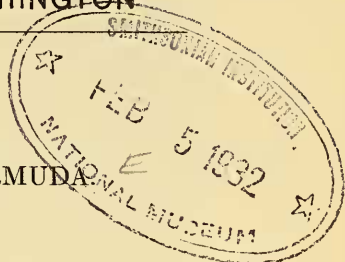


PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
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A NEW POLYGALA FROM BERMUDA

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The new *Polygala* here described, of considerable interest as the first member of the genus to be reported from Bermuda, is based on a specimen sent for identification by Mr. C. A. Weatherby of the Gray Herbarium.

***Polygala bermudensis* Blake, sp. nov.**

Probably biennial, about 2-stemmed, glabrous throughout; stems angled, about 30 cm. long, apparently ascending; leaves in whorls of 5-8 essentially throughout, mostly equaling or longer than the internodes, obovate, about 1.5-2 cm. long, sharply cuspidate, fleshy; racemes cylindric-conic, acuminate, 7-9 mm. thick, slightly comose at apex; bracts subulate, deciduous; flowers pink-tinged, pedicellate; wings orbicular-obovate, short-clawed, 3.8-4 mm. long, 3-3.2 mm. wide, in fruit conspicuously surpassing the capsule; capsule oval, 2.8-3 mm. long, 2 mm. wide; seeds narrowly obovoid, densely pilosulous, 2.1 mm. long; aril 1-1.2 mm. long.

Subgenus *Orthopolygala*, series *Galioideae*; roots slender but apparently biennial; stems subulately several-angled, 1-1.5 mm. thick, simple or with a single branch above; internodes mostly 4-18 mm. long; leaves subsessile, 14-22 mm. long, 3.5-9 mm. wide, acute or obtuse at apex and very sharply cuspidate (cusp about 1 mm. long), cuneate at base, narrowly revolute-margined, rather light green, feather-veined (lateral veins about 3 pairs), densely glandular-punctate and -lineolate; peduncles solitary, terminal, about 2 cm. long; racemes 4-4.5 cm. long, the axis becoming 11.5 cm. long; pedicels 1-1.4 mm. long; bracts subulate, acuminate, glabrous, 1.8 mm. long, with greenish center and narrow pinkish-tinged petaloid margin; upper sepal ovate or oval-ovate, 1.8-2 mm. long, 1.1-1.5 mm. wide, acutish, slightly erose toward apex, glabrous, the greenish center bearing 2 elongate white glands, and usually a shorter one on each side, the petaloid margin pinkish; lower sepals essentially similar but somewhat narrower, about 1.8 mm. long; wings rounded at apex, glabrous, 5-nerved with once or twice forked nerves, bearing 2 longitudinal glands along midnerve; upper petals equaling the wings, obliquely oblong, obtuse, obscurely erose at apex, about 5-nerved; keel equaling the wings, bearing 2 long white glands,

the crest on each side of a cuneate lamella and 4 linear lobes, the terminal one sometimes bifid; capsule oval, subsessile in the floral gland, bearing several glands; seeds shortly and thickly subrostrate at base, the beak 0.2 mm. long; aril glabrous, the 2 linear-oblong scarious lobes 1-1.2 mm. long; style nearly equaling the stigmatic region, the proximal stigmatic lobe capitate, on a short thick stipe, the distal conspicuously stipitate, comose, the stipes connected at base by a quadrate membrane; stamens 8, the glabrous filaments about equaling the anthers.

BERMUDA: Well established over about 2 acres on northwest point of Smith's Island, 28 April 1929, Mrs. Rachel B. Kennedy 134 (type no. 1,414,807, U. S. Nat. Herb.).

In habit and foliage *Polygala bermudensis* is closely similar to *Polygala wilsonii* Small, known only from Salt Key Bank, Anguilla Isles, Bahama Islands, a specimen of which has been available for comparison through the kindness of Dr. E. D. Merrill. In that species, however, the bracts are ovate, the somewhat shorter and proportionately narrower wings are shorter than the capsule at maturity, the capsule is ovate-elliptic, and the ellipsoid-obconic seeds are 2.8 mm. long, more than twice as long as the aril lobes, and provided at base with a slender curved beak 0.5 mm. long. *Polygala flagellaris* Small and *P. boykinii* Nutt., which are related to the new species, are at once distinguished by their smaller flowers, with wings at maturity equaling the fruit; the seeds are also different.

No species of *Polygala* is reported from Bermuda in Dr. Britton's "Flora of Bermuda." It is, of course, possible that *P. bermudensis* is only an introduced species, as suggested by the wording of the collector's note, but it is in any case quite distinct from any previously known species of its group. It may well be a hitherto overlooked endemic species of very restricted distribution, as is evidently the case of its closest relative, *P. wilsonii*.